
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2018

Fiscal Services Division

December 20, 2017



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Sexual Abuse Evidence Processing

Division of Criminal Investigation Criminalistics Laboratory

The Iowa Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Criminalistics Laboratory (Crime Lab) was created by statute in July 1969 (Iowa Code chapter 691). In 1977, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation was reorganized as the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) within the Department of Public Safety. In September 2000, the laboratory was accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB), and currently maintains accreditation in accordance with ASCLD/LAB International program criteria.

Current Operations

The DCI Crime Lab provides services in the following areas: trace evidence, arson, latent prints and impression evidence, questioned documents, breath alcohol, toxicology, drug identification, firearms and toolmarks, DNA, forensic photography, and crime scene processing.

Additional Funds for Sexual Abuse Evidence Processing

Senate File 516 (FY 2018 Standing Appropriation Act) appropriated an additional \$200,000 and 2.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for expediting the processing of sexual abuse evidence collection kits. House File 2420 (2016 Untested Sexual Abuse Evidence Collection Kits Act) required the Department of Justice to conduct a survey of Iowa law enforcement agencies to determine the number of untested sexual abuse evidence collection kits. The survey found that there were 4,265 unsubmitted sexual abuse evidence collection kits in the State.

A total of \$3.0 million in federal funds has been awarded to the State of Iowa to identify the number of untested sexual abuse evidence collection kits existing within Iowa law enforcement agencies. The funds allow for the testing of the kits and provide support for law enforcement investigations and prosecutions derived from the kits tested. The Division of Criminal Investigation will contract with private laboratories to test unsubmitted kits.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [691](#)

Iowa Code section [691.9](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [661–150](#) (Crime Lab Chapter)

More Information

Department of Public Safety: www.dps.state.ia.us

DCI Criminalistics Laboratory: www.dps.state.ia.us/DCI/lab/index.shtml

U.S. Department of Justice: www.justice.gov

Office of the Attorney General: www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov

LSA Staff Contact: Alice Wisner (515.281.6764) alice.wisner@legis.iowa.gov